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Anguilla

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Contents

		Page
	The Territory at a glance	3
I.	Constitutional, legal and political issues	4
II.	Budget	5
III.	Economic conditions	6
	A. General	6
	B. Tourism	6
	C. Financial services	6
	D. Agriculture and fisheries	7
	E. Infrastructure	8
	F. Transportation and communications	8
IV.	Social conditions	9
	A. General	9
	B. Education	10

Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 15 December 2017. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.

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C. Public health ... 10
D. Crime and public safety ... 11
E. Human rights ... 11
V. Environment ... 12
VI. Relations with international organizations and partners ... 12
VII. Future status of the Territory ... 13
A. Position of the territorial Government ... 13
B. Position of the administering Power ... 13
VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly ... 14
Annex
Map of Anguilla ... 17

The Territory at a glance

Territory: Anguilla is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administering Power: Governor Tim Foy (2017)

Geography: The Territory lies 240 km east of Puerto Rico, 113 km north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis and 8 km north of Sint Maarten/Saint Martin. It has a relatively flat topography, with a few rolling hills rising to 213 ft.

Land area: 96 km^2. The main island has a maximum length of 26 km and a maximum width of 5 km.

Exclusive economic zone: 92,178 km^2

Population: 15,700 (2013 estimate)

Life expectancy at birth: 81.50 years (male: 78.89 years, female: 84.19 years (2017 estimate))

Languages: 99 per cent of the population speaks English. Spanish and Chinese are also spoken.

Capital: The Valley

Head of territorial Government: Chief Minister Victor Banks (April 2015)

Elections: Most recent: 22 April 2015; next: by 22 April 2020

Main political parties: Anguilla United Front; Anguilla United Movement

Legislature: House of Assembly

Gross domestic product per capita: US$ 18,589 (2014 estimate)

Economy: Tourism, financial services and remittances

Main trading partners: United States of America and States members of the Caribbean Community

Unemployment rate: 8 per cent (2012 estimate)

Monetary unit: East Caribbean dollar, pegged to the United States dollar at EC$ 2.6882

Brief history: Originally inhabited by the Arawaks, the Territory was colonized by British and Irish settlers in 1650 and was periodically associated with Saint Kitts and Nevis, as well as various regional structures. In 1980, the Territory became a dependency of the United Kingdom.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. According to the Anguilla Constitution Order, which came into force in 1982 and was amended in 1990, the Government of Anguilla consists of the Governor, the Executive Council and the House of Assembly. The Governor, appointed by the British Crown, is responsible for defence, external affairs, internal security (including the police), international financial services and their regulation, public service appointments and the application to public servants of their terms and conditions of service. On all other matters, the Governor is required to consult and act on the advice of the Executive Council. At the same time, the Order stipulates that the British Crown reserves the power, with the advice of the Privy Council, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Anguilla.

2. The Territory's Executive Council consists of the Chief Minister, not more than three other ministers and two ex officio members, namely, the Attorney General and the Deputy Governor. The Governor acts as Chair of the Council, without voting rights. The House of Assembly is elected for a five-year term and comprises the Speaker, not less than seven members elected from single-member constituencies, the same two ex officio members as in the Executive Council and two members appointed by the Governor, one upon the advice of the Chief Minister and the other after consultation with the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, as appropriate. In accordance with the Constitution, the Governor appoints as Chief Minister one of the elected members of the Assembly who, in the judgment of the Governor, is likely to command the support of a majority of the elected members of the Assembly. Other ministers are also appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the advice of the Chief Minister, from among the elected members of the Assembly.

3. The general elections held in Anguilla on 22 April 2015 resulted in a change of government from the Anguilla United Movement to the Anguilla United Front. The current Chief Minister, Victor Banks, took office on 23 April 2015.

4. The law of Anguilla is the common law of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, together with all legislation inherited from the former associated State of Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla up to August 1971 and any legislation that has been enacted either locally or by the United Kingdom on its behalf since. The law is administered by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, a regional court based in Saint Lucia for the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which consists of two divisions, an itinerant court of appeal and a high court of justice. There is ultimate recourse to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

5. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 provides for the granting of British citizenship to British overseas territory citizens.

6. In 2011, Anguilla set up a team headed by H. Clifton Niles to draft a new constitution. As previously reported, a draft text was presented to the Government in February 2012, containing changes in governance that could become features of an independent constitution. In September 2015, the territorial Government established a new Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee to advance constitutional and electoral reform with a mandate to, inter alia, review previous proposals for the reform of the 1982 Constitution of Anguilla. In November 2016, the territorial Government published the proposals for electoral and constitutional reform by the Committee as the draft new Constitution, the draft new election bill and the draft new electoral boundaries commission, after which the Committee carried out a public consultation. A revised draft, dated 31 March 2017, was issued and presented to the

Executive Council on 4 May. New proposals contained in the draft new Constitution included renaming the Executive Council as the Cabinet and the Chief Minister as Premier, increasing the number of ministers from four to six, introducing a two-term limit for the Premier and changing the responsibilities of the Governor.

7. According to the administering Power, in line with its white paper entitled *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, published in 2012, the Governor has made clear that any decision to sever the constitutional link between the United Kingdom and Anguilla should be on the basis of the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the people of Anguilla. If the desire for independence was clearly expressed, the Government of the United Kingdom would meet its obligations to help the Territory to achieve it.

8. Following the elections in April 2015, then Chief Minister-elect Banks reportedly stated that stimulating the Anguillan economy was a key priority and that the political independence of Anguilla was not an immediate priority for his administration, in contrast to the position of the previous administration under the Anguilla United Movement.

II. Budget

9. The Governments of the United Kingdom and Anguilla have agreed upon a framework for fiscal responsibility and development, which was passed into Anguillan law in November 2013. It set out the commitment of the Government of Anguilla to a balanced budget, borrowing guidelines and a medium-term fiscal plan for the management of public finances over the coming five years.

10. On 5 December 2016, the Chief Minister and the Minister of Finance presented in the House of Assembly a budget for the 2017 fiscal year of EC$ 256.29 million. In the 2017 budget for the territorial Government, recurrent expenditure accounted for EC$ 211.96 million, while the capital budget had an allocation of EC$ 44.33 million. On the other hand, the 2017 recurrent revenue estimate was EC$ 214.89 million, which represented an increase of 13.87 per cent compared with the previous year. In addition, capital grants and revenue were projected to amount to EC$ 55.37 million. As a result, a surplus of EC$ 2.93 million in the recurrent balance was projected for 2017 and a total of EC$ 11.04 million was projected for the capital account balance.

11. With regard to fiscal year 2016, the recurrent revenue outturns amounted to EC$ 188.71 million and recurrent expenditure totalled EC$ 187.65 million. According to the administering Power, its Government continued to provide capital grants to the Territory through Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme funding totalling EC$ 4.28 million in financial year 2016/17 in order to support education, telecommunications, the reconstruction of port infrastructure, fire services and air traffic control projects.

12. According to a review by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the territorial Government of the Anguilla debt portfolio in 2016, total public debt, comprising central government debt and government-guaranteed debt from domestic and external sources, stood at EC$ 474.96 million, which was equivalent to 51.39 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Despite a decline in debt stock at an average annual rate of 3.1 per cent from 2012 to 2015, the debt stock increased in 2016 by 123.3 per cent compared with 2015 (EC$ 212.71 million) because the new debt contracted in support of the banking resolution exceeded scheduled amortization payments (see also para. 21).

13. There is no income, estate, capital gains, corporation, value added or goods and services tax in Anguilla. The territorial Government continues to study this matter, in particular with regard to the impact of low taxation on the Territory's economy and public sector reserves.

III. Economic conditions

A. General

14. According to the administering Power, the economy of Anguilla grew by 1.14 per cent in real terms in 2016, compared to 3.17 per cent the previous year. Nominal GDP in 2016 was EC$ 911.31 million.

15. The main industries in Anguilla are tourism, real estate and financial intermediation. Tourism remained the main source of economic growth in 2016.

16. The passage of two category 5 hurricanes (Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria) in September 2017 caused widespread devastation and considerable economic losses. The International Organization for Migration reported in September 2017 that 90 per cent of electricity infrastructure had been damaged and that around 90 per cent of government buildings had been substantially damaged. According to the administering Power, the estimated cost of the damage caused by Hurricane Irma was EC$ 880.4 million, or over 95 per cent of GDP in 2016. The most affected sector was tourism, which sustained 54.7 per cent of total damage and 81.5 per cent of total losses.

B. Tourism

17. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism is responsible for implementing the tourism master plan (2010–2020), while the Anguilla Tourist Board and the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association market and promote the Territory's tourism product.

18. According to the annual economic and financial review by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Anguilla had 175,970 visitor arrivals in 2016, of which approximately 45 per cent, 79,239, were stay-over visitors. In addition, according to the administering Power, during the first six months of 2017, visitor arrivals numbered 10,5928, an increase of 8.6 per cent from 96,847 during the same period in 2016.

C. Financial services

19. According to the Government of Anguilla, the financial intermediation sector, including banking, insurance and related services, accounted for 11.3 per cent of GDP in 2016. The sector declined by 2.2 per cent in 2016 and over the past seven-year period by an average of 4.3 per cent. The Anguilla Financial Services Commission was established in 2004 as an independent regulatory body reporting to the Governor. At the same time, the administration of the Territory's responsibilities with respect to the United States Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act rests with the Ministry of Finance. In October 2014, Anguilla joined the early adopters initiative to commit itself to the early adoption of the Common Reporting Standard, which was the new

standard in the automatic exchange of information between tax authorities developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

20. In April 2016, Anguilla concluded a bilateral arrangement with the United Kingdom on the reciprocal exchange of beneficial ownership information, which came into effect on 30 June 2017. Under the arrangement, law enforcement authorities would have timely access to beneficial ownership information on corporate and legal entities incorporated in the respective jurisdictions. In 2017, the Government of the United Kingdom agreed to provide financial assistance to Anguilla to help it establish its beneficial ownership system, as well as assistance in drafting underpinning legislation.

21. In August 2013, two commercial banks in Anguilla, the National Bank of Anguilla and the Caribbean Commercial Bank, were placed under the conservatorship of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In 2015, the territorial Government decided to progress the banking resolution plan proposed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In April 2016, the Governor assented to a series of related legislation (the Banking Act, 2015; the Eastern Caribbean Asset Management Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2016; and the Bank Resolution Obligations Act, 2016) and the two banks were merged to form the National Commercial Bank of Anguilla. According to the territorial Government, the intervention by the Government of Anguilla in that banking resolution amounted to EC$ 325.4 million.

22. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, held in London on 28 and 29 November 2017, the overseas territories and the United Kingdom welcomed the progress made by the overseas territories with financial centres to implement the arrangements set out in the exchange of notes on law enforcement exchange of beneficial ownership information, including establishing new and secure systems for the collection, exchange and use of beneficial ownership data, where they did not already exist. The Joint Ministerial Council committed itself to reviewing the effectiveness of the arrangements six months prior to their operation. It welcomed the cooperation of the overseas territories in international efforts to promote tax transparency and tackle financial crime and the constructive engagement of the overseas territories with the Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) of the European Union and at the first meeting of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery. The Joint Ministerial Council reiterated its commitment to show leadership in tackling corruption and committed itself to prioritizing further work to enable the timely extension to the territories of the application of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular where territories have requested such an extension, and to set a clear path for that process, building on the meeting held during the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017.

D. Agriculture and fisheries

23. While agricultural activity in Anguilla is limited, in the 2017 budget address, it was stated that in 2017, the Department of Agriculture would commence implementation of the national strategic plan for agriculture, which was finalized in 2016, to encourage local food production and provide support to egg producers.

24. Fishing is significant to the livelihoods of many Anguillans, generating direct revenue for more than 200 people, with many more fishing on a subsistence basis. The contribution of fisheries to the Territory's GDP in 2012 was estimated at 2.26 per

cent. As previously reported, Anguilla is using less than one quarter of its exclusive fishing zone to the north of the island.

25. Since 2013, the administering Power has been discussing the possibility of assisting the territorial Government in investigating whether commercial fisheries might be established in the Territory. According to the administering Power, the Anguilla Fisheries Development Plan, adopted by the Executive Council in April 2016, outlines the work needed to ensure the optimal and sustainable exploitation of Anguilla's fisheries resources. In the 2017 budget address, the territorial Government stated that the focus would be on investing in the fishing industry through the implementation of special partnership agreements for foreign industrial fishing, and that such a development could double the contribution of fishing to the GDP of the Territory.

E. Infrastructure

26. According to the Government of Anguilla, the Territory has approximately 100 km of paved roads and 60 km of unpaved roads. Some of the paved roads are over 25 years old and have not been sufficiently maintained.

27. The Anguilla Air and Sea Ports Authority, a semi-autonomous self-sustaining entity, manages the operations of the airport and seaports on a commercial basis. Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport, situated on the outskirts of The Valley, is the only airport on the island and serves both commercial and private aircraft. There are flights to and from the international airports of Antigua, Sint Maarten/Saint Martin, Puerto Rico and Saint Thomas. In addition, the ferry and charter boat service between Anguilla and Sint Maarten/Saint Martin is the main international transportation link between Anguilla and the major international gateways.

28. Hurricane Irma, which hit Anguilla in September 2017, caused significant damage to infrastructure. According to the administering Power, following assessments and the provision of initial support, the Government of the United Kingdom in December 2017 offered a grant of EC$ 213.6 million to rebuild critical infrastructure.

F. Transportation and communications

29. According to the 2017 budget address of the territorial Government, estimates of recurrent revenue, expenditure and capital in 2015 accounted for 10.3 per cent of total economic activity in Anguilla, contributing EC$ 75.93 million that year. Positive growth of 4.5 per cent was realized in that sector owing mainly to 7 per cent real expansion in the large road transport subsector and 0.9 per cent expansion in the communications subsector.

30. Anguilla has a modern internal telephone system with multiple external gateways, including several microwave relays to Sint Maarten/Saint Martin, and a fibre landing point on Tortola for international calls, with competition in mobile, landline and Internet services.

IV. Social conditions

A. General

31. The social security scheme of the Territory is overseen by the Anguilla Social Security Board. The Department of Social Development offers basic social services to the public. According to the report entitled "Situation Analysis of Children in Anguilla", published in 2016 by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office for the East Caribbean Area in partnership with the territorial Government, there is no consolidated social policy scheme in place to deal with vulnerable groups and strategically address the causes and consequences of poverty. Instead, the Government provides temporary relief to vulnerable groups in the form of public assistance grants.

32. According to the administering Power, as at December 2017 113 persons deemed to be needy or vulnerable were receiving monthly financial contributions of public assistance from the territorial Government, amounting to a sum of EC$ 608,700, excluding assistance with other services, such as funeral grants, goods vouchers and educational assistance. Medical assistance continued to occupy a large portion of the budget of the Department of Social Development, occasioned by the high cost of medical services, limited accessibility and affordability. At the time of reporting, a total of ECS$ 3,180,373 had been contributed to medical services for 284 needy and vulnerable persons, not including assistance for the medical treatment overseas programme handled by the Ministry of Social Development.

33. The Ministry of Social Development continues to sensitize stakeholders to the importance of adhering to the Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocol, developed in collaboration with UNICEF, to ensure that all agencies responsible for safeguarding children work collectively to respond to child abuse and neglect.

34. The implementation of the Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocol continued to be monitored in monthly review meetings with the key agencies. A Child Protection Board was formed in 2016, which was further evidence of the continued emphasis being placed on protecting children from abuse. With the passage of Hurricane Irma, additional training sessions were held to expand the cadre of persons equipped to work with vulnerable children and strengthen the capacity of the islands to assist children in dealing with the trauma of disasters. UNICEF, in partnership with the Departments of Disaster Preparedness and Education, played a leading role in that regard, rolling out the "return to happiness" programme to help all of the primary schools in the Territory. The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies in the Territory also contributed to this capacity-building with a week-long psychosocial training for professionals and other interested persons who work with children and adults.

35. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the leaders of overseas territories reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the highest possible standards for the protection of children and the promotion of children's welfare in the territories. At the meeting, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories discussed progress made in promoting inter-agency cooperation in the territories and the development of national response plans to define policy priorities. In addition, they welcomed progress made under a memorandum of understanding to promote more effective collaboration between the overseas territories for the safeguarding of children.

B. Education

36. In Anguilla, education is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 17 years, benefiting, in 2014/15, approximately 2,790 pupils enrolled in eight primary schools (including two private schools) and one secondary school with two campuses. In addition, 460 students 3 and 4 years of age were enrolled in 11 preschool centres that year. According to the Pan American Health Organization, functional literacy in Anguilla is 93 per cent, and net enrolment in primary school is universal, with 100 per cent completing the last grade. The Department of Education provides continuing professional development for all teachers, with an emphasis on supporting new teachers.

37. Anguilla Community College offers associate degrees and a postgraduate diploma, among others. The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies offers fully accredited tertiary education in Anguilla. In addition, according to the administering Power, a private medical school based in the United States of America has a campus in the Territory offering the basic sciences to its students, who are mostly from the United States.

38. Students from overseas territories benefit from the home student rate for school fees at British universities, provided that they have lived in a British overseas territory, the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first academic year of their course of study. In addition, those students have access to funding provided by the European Union for higher or vocational education.

C. Public health

39. The Health Authority of Anguilla is responsible for all primary, secondary and personal health-care services. There are three health districts in the Territory, featuring four health centres, one polyclinic and one hospital, the 32-bed Princess Alexandra Hospital. Patients requiring major surgery are usually evacuated to a neighbouring island.

40. The Ministry of Health and Social Development regulates and monitors the public and private health sectors, including the Health Authority, and carries out policymaking and regulatory functions, operating within the framework of the national health strategic plan 2015–2020.

41. At its sixth meeting, the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council welcomed the fact that the Department of Health of the United Kingdom had continued its support for and commitment, in partnership with the territories and Public Health England, to raising awareness of international health regulations and to developing the relevant capacity to respond to major public health incidents, including outbreaks. The United Kingdom and the overseas territories discussed the importance of raising awareness of and building capacity and expertise in the territories for tackling non-communicable diseases, such as obesity and mental health problems, and the impact of those challenges on the populations of the territories. They committed themselves to working together on those important issues so as to share best practices and resources on preventive approaches and the ways in which they could be adapted to respond to local needs.

D. Crime and public safety

42. According to information provided by the administering Power, Anguilla has a low crime rate compared with other jurisdictions in the region.

43. The Money-Laundering Reporting Authority is the central body responsible for the receipt, analysis and dissemination of information pertaining to proceeds suspected to be derived from criminal activities, and it provides strategic oversight of the financial intelligence function. The Anguilla Financial Intelligence Unit, a dedicated specialist unit within the Royal Anguilla Police Force, is delegated by the Authority the task of performing day-to-day operational functions with respect to a wide variety of investigations of financial crime, including money-laundering.

44. In 2017, the United Kingdom continued to provide funding for a law enforcement adviser based in Miami, United States, who coordinated, managed and facilitated training and the provision of strategic advice in order to introduce new techniques and skills to the Territory's law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, RFA *Mounts Bay* has been stationed in the Caribbean since January 2017 as part of the North Atlantic patrol of the Royal Navy, ensuring a year-round maritime presence of the United Kingdom and providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and crisis communications support in the region. The ship also worked with other regional navies and coast guards to combat illegal activities on the high seas. RFA *Mounts Bay* and HMS *Ocean* provided vital humanitarian relief to the region, in particular the three Territories — Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands — affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in September.

E. Human rights

45. The Territory's Constitution provides that every person in Anguilla is entitled to life, liberty, security of person, the enjoyment of property, protection of the law, freedom of conscience, expression and peaceful assembly and association, and respect for his or her private and family life. The provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have been extended to Anguilla. The European Convention on Human Rights also applies to Anguilla, with individuals having the right to bring cases to the European Court of Human Rights where no other remedy exists in the Territory. However, other fundamental human rights treaties have yet to be extended to Anguilla, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

46. At the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories discussed their shared resolve to continue to promote respect for human rights and compliance with international obligations in the territories. In the communiqué adopted at that meeting, they welcomed the constructive engagement of the territories in the preparations for the universal periodic review process of the Human Rights Council in that regard. The leaders of the overseas territories also reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the highest possible standards for the protection of children and promotion of children's welfare in the territories. At the meeting, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories discussed progress made in promoting inter-agency cooperation

in the territories and the development of national response plans to define policy priorities, noted the particular challenges for those territories affected by the recent hurricanes and agreed that children's welfare should remain a central priority for recovery plans, including through the reconstruction of schools. In addition, they welcomed progress made under a memorandum of understanding to promote more effective collaboration between the overseas territories for the safeguarding of children.

V. Environment

47. The Department of the Environment, the Agriculture Department, the Fisheries and Marine Resources Department, the Department of Health Protection and the Anguilla National Trust are the principal entities dealing with environmental issues. At the time of writing, the Executive Council was examining the proposed merger of the Environment, Agriculture, and Fisheries and Marine Resources Departments.

48. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the overseas territories recognized that the destruction wrought by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria had served as a reminder of the vulnerability of the overseas territories to climate change–related events and the devastating effect that they could have on the lives and livelihoods of those who lived there. They committed themselves to continuing the practice of mutual engagement ahead of international forums on climate change to ensure that the views and priorities of the overseas territories were fully reflected in negotiations. It was agreed that a representative from the territories would attend the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018, as part of the delegation of the United Kingdom, highlighting the value of their presence in helping to amplify the shared message of the need for a high degree of ambition on climate change–related targets. The United Kingdom reiterated its commitment to working with the overseas territories on the issue of extending the application of treaties concerning climate change to the territories, including taking forward the work to extend its ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to those territories that had indicated their readiness for it, through initial consultation with territories that had an interest in participating in meetings concerning the Paris Agreement to be held in the first half of 2018. The importance of work in the territories on climate change adaptation and mitigation and collaboration between the territories to share best practices on environmental management and climate change issues, including through the annual meetings of ministers of the environment of the territories, was emphasized.

VI. Relations with international organizations and partners

49. Since 1998, the Territory has been an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2011, it has maintained a formal dialogue with the International Monetary Fund.

50. Anguilla participates in the Caribbean Community as an associate member. It is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.

51. Anguilla is an associate member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

52. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, Anguilla is associated with the European Union but is not a part of it. The eleventh European Development Fund (2014–2020) allocated €14 million (approximately EC$ 42.9 million) for the territorial programme of Anguilla. According to the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories continued their dialogue on the implications for the latter of the decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union (known as "Brexit"). In addition, it was indicated that a clear objective of the exit negotiations was to achieve an agreement that worked for all parts of the United Kingdom family, and the United Kingdom affirmed that it would seek to ensure that the security and economic sustainability of the overseas territories was preserved and, where possible, strengthened post-"Brexit".

53. The territorial Government cooperates directly with Caribbean Governments and participates in regional projects of various international organizations and agencies, including the Pan American Health Organization.

VII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

54. Developments in constitutional reform efforts involving the future status of Anguilla are referred to in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

55. At the 8th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 9 October 2017, during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of the Government of the United Kingdom with its overseas territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to choose to remain British. He said that the territories were an integral part of global Britain and the United Kingdom's commitment to its territories' security and prosperity remained strong, as demonstrated by the swift and comprehensive response to the devastation wreaked in some territories by Hurricane Irma and the ongoing recovery efforts.

56. The representative of the United Kingdom went on to say that the Joint Ministerial Council was the primary forum for high-level political dialogue between the United Kingdom and the overseas territories. As the United Kingdom negotiated to leave the European Union, it was fully committed to taking into account the priorities of the overseas territories, including Gibraltar. The United Kingdom–Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council on European Union Negotiations had been established to discuss the priorities of the territories and determine further areas for collective engagement. He added that the fundamental responsibility of the Government of the United Kingdom, under international law and the Charter of the United Nations, was to ensure the security and good governance of the territories and their peoples.

57. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories indicated that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the Charter, applied to the peoples of the overseas territories. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting the right of the peoples of the territories to self-determination, a collective responsibility of all parts of the Government of the United Kingdom. They committed themselves to exploring the ways in which the overseas territories could maintain international support in countering hostile sovereignty claims. For those Territories with permanent populations who wished it, the United Kingdom would continue to support their requests for removal from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories agreed that the fundamental structure of their constitutional relationships had been the right one--powers were devolved to the elected Governments of the territories to the maximum extent possible consistent with the United Kingdom retaining those powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities. They also agreed upon the need to continue their engagement on those issues to ensure that constitutional arrangements worked and were developed effectively to promote the best interests of the territories and of the United Kingdom.

VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly

58. On 7 December 2017, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 72/97 on the basis of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2017 (A/72/23) and the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In that resolution, the Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(b) Also reaffirmed that, in the process of decolonization of Anguilla, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

(c) Further reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Anguilla to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

(d) Welcomed the preparations made for a new constitution, and urged that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

(e) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

(f) Stressed the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, called upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desired, and requested the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

(g) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard called upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

(h) Called upon the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

(i) Welcomed the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(j) Encouraged the Territory to continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars;

(k) Stressed the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Anguilla and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Anguilla and the administering Power;

(l) Called upon the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Anguilla, and encouraged the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

(m) Reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requested the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

(n) Took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, stressed the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urged the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as a tax haven, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

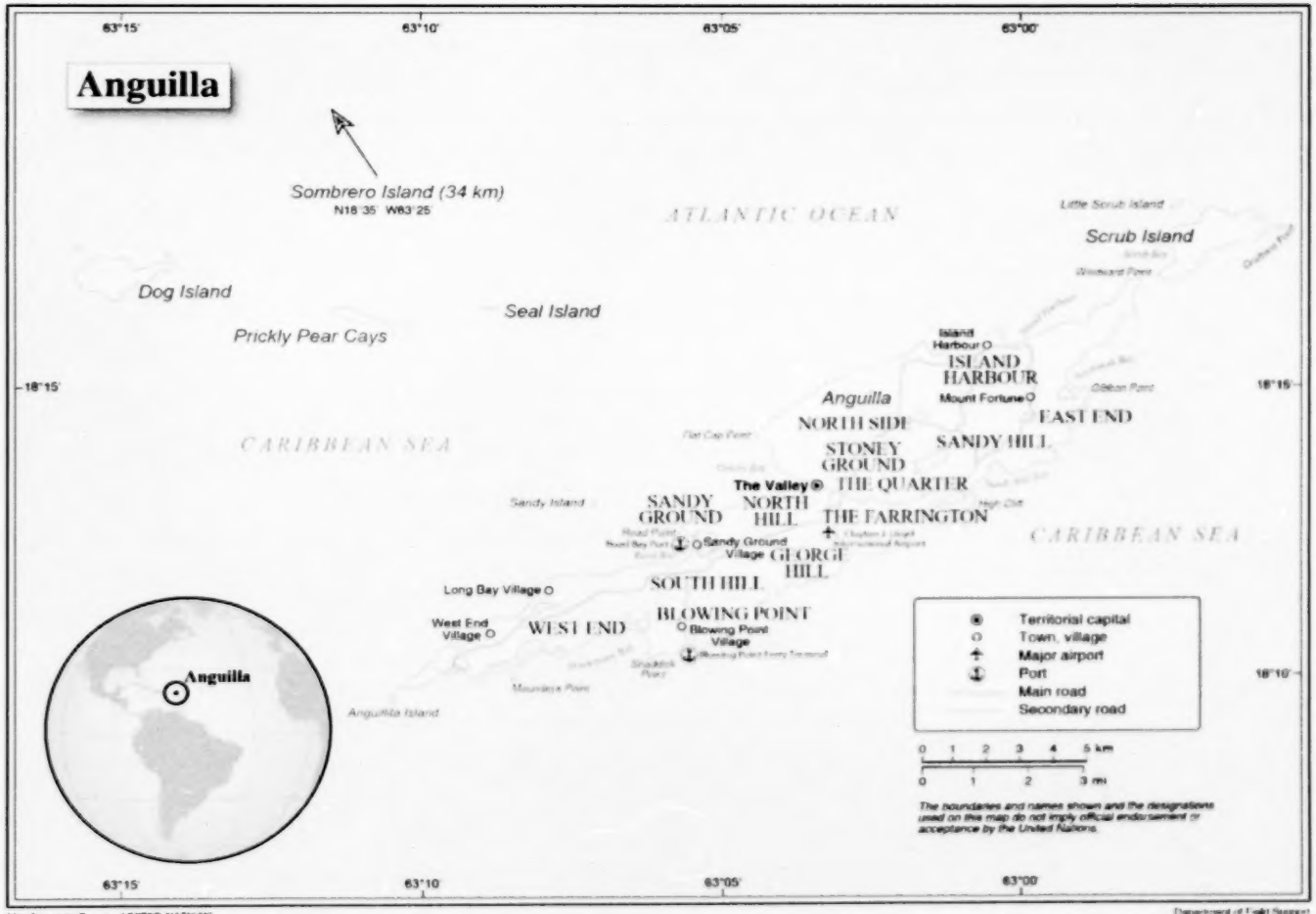
(o) Requested the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requested the specialized agencies concerned to monitor

environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

(p) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Anguilla and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and on the implementation of the resolution.

Annex

Map of Anguilla



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